very high. Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been under operation since 1988 as reduction in establishment cost would improve the financial position of HSCL which is a loss making company.

Importing of heavy duty tyres by UMDC Limited

2957. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NMDC Limited has been importing heavy duty tyres without proper evaluation of tenders;

(b) whether such tyres are also available in domestic markets;

(c) whether objections have been raised by the Finance Wing of the Company;

(d) whether Government propose to order investigation against such deals of the Company; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) has reported that it has been procuring tyres required at its iron ore mining projects both fro m indigenous and foreign manufacturers. However, the company has found the performance of imported tyres to be markedly superior to the indigenous ones resulting in longer life, saving in fuel consumption, etc.

(c) NMDC has reported that the views of its Finance, Operations and Materials Departments were taken into consideration before arriving at the purchase decision.

(d) and (e) No investigation by the Government appears to be necessary as the company has reported that it has followed the laid down procedure for processing the order for tyres as in the past by considering various techno-commercial aspects.

Sales of steel from SAIL

2958. SHRI HIPHEI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether sales of steel from SAIL plants at Bhilai, Bokaro, Durgapur and Rourkela has recorded some increase during first 11 months of current financial year over the corresponding period in 1993-94;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take steps ensuring further higher selling trend of steel by SAIL plants in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. The total sales of saleable steel from SAIL Plants at Bhilai, Bokaro, Durgapur and Rourkela during the first 11 months of the current financial year (April, 1994 to February, 1995) have shown a growth of 5% over the sales in the corresponding period last year.

(b) The Plant-wise details of total sales of saleable steel during the first